

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

In looking back, the main impression of this nesting season was of heat and dampness though little precipitation fell. Heavy foliage and dense undergrowth caused Keji to remark that seeing small land birds was difficult at Ray Brook.

Bob Kampf, of the Hilltop Weather Station at Ray Brook, summarizes the period as follows: June started out cold with temperatures of 30 and 32 degrees on the 1st and 2nd. Immediately after that the thermometer blasted up to 83 degrees on June 6! The rest of June was about average though rainfall was below normal despite two severe squalls on the 14th and 29th. July was hot. Eighty-nine degrees on July 4 was a record high for the nine-year history of the weather station. The first part of August was fair and pleasant with rainfall again below normal.

Notable were the scarcity of heron and waterfowl, the absence of House Wrens, and the relatively good nesting records for warblers after their late arrival following the cold Spring.

Unusual species were Mockingbird, Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers and Western Meadowlark.

Again I am grateful to visiting birders for their most interesting reports. Bob McKinny was at Long Lake June 24-29; Mary and Robert Sheffield were at Elk Lake June 12-19 and Frank Schetty was at Elk Lake from late June to early August.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; RMcK—Robert McKinny; MRS—Mary and Robert Sheffield; FS—Frank Schetty DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Jun 12-19 Elk L (MRS), but no eggs or young found in that area for first time since 1948 (FS); heard Jun 23 TL, pair and nest with one egg Jul 17 Weller P, one adult one imm Jul 17 Middle Saranac L (RM); three Long L, late Jun (RMcK). Great Blue Heron: one Aug 4 RB (JK); one Long L late Jun (RMcK). Black-crowned Night Heron: few Kings Bay L Champlain week of Jul 25 (GTC). American Bittern: two adults, no young seen Elk L (FS); one late Jun Long L (RMcK); one Jul 25 TL (RM). Black Duck: eight adults, no young seen Elk L Jul (FS); four Aug 10 RB (JK). Wood Duck: two adult males, no young Elk L Jul (FS). Ring-necked Duck: six Long L late Jun (RMcK). White-winged Scoter: one Benz P, Santa Clara, Jun 4, studied carefully through 25x scope in good light (RH). Hooded Merganser: five Clear P near Elk L Jun 17 (MRS); one female with one young Elk L Jul (FS); female with four well-grown young Jul 25 RB (JK). Common Merganser: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); two families with eight and 14 young Elk L Jul (FS); three families Raquette R above Axton (RM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: three young in alternate nest early Jun, Jay (RH); one Jun 25 Elk L (FS et al). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one adult "seen hunting, probably breeding" Elk L Jul (FS). Red-tailed Hawk: one Long L late Jun (RMCK); one adult, one imm Elk L Jul (FS). Broad-winged Hawk: one Jun 2 and Jul 5 RB (JK); two pairs, three imm Elk L Jul (FS); one Marcy Trail Rd Jul 27 (EA, HD). Golden Eagle: adult male "Central Adirondack" (Walter Spofford). Bald Eagle: one adult Jul 4-6 Elk L (FS). Marsh Hawk: one Jun 22, one Aug 11 SL (GK). Osprey: one Long L late Jun (RMCK); one Jun 28-Aug 10 RB (JK); two adults, one imm over L Colby early Aug (GTC). Sparrow Hawk: three Jul 27 Marcy Trail Rd (EA, HD). Ruffed Grouse: drumming Mt Jo Trail, Jun 18, one Hart L Jul 27 (FS). Herring Gull: one or two Jun 24-Jul 25 RB (JK); two Long L late Jun (RMCK); one Jul 11 SL (GK). Black Tern: four late Jun TL (RMCK). Black-billed Cuckoo: one, rd to Sabattis late June (RMCK); one Jun 11 and Jul 27 RB (JK). Great Horned Owl: not heard by MRS early Jun but heard later by FS Elk L. Barred Owl: one Jun 17 Elk L (MRS); one seen, several heard Jul Elk L (FS); one Jul 30 TL (RM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: only report from TL where RM says "heard more often than ever before." Common Nighthawk: ventured to higher altitudes and further out of town in this season of plenteous insect life. Chimney Swift: quite common all areas, 20 pair Elk L (FS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very good numbers all areas. Belted Kingfisher: two adults, no young seen Jul Elk L (FS); four Aug 13 RB (JK); one Saranac R Aug 9 (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: large numbers all areas. Pileated Woodpecker: no reports, MRS particularly noted this absence as unusual for Elk L. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: all areas; 15 nests, one still feeding young Aug 2 Elk L (FS). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: normal all areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: two males Jul 17, two females Jul 18 Elk L (FS). Eastern Kingbird: first pair in two years, island in Elk L (FS); small numbers reported other areas except TL. Great Crested Flycatcher: one Jun 19 SL (HD); one Jun 26 RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: nesting reports all areas except TL. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Jun 2 RB (JK); one Wilmington Jun 4 (RH, DY); one summit Owl's Head Mt, Hamilton Co late Jun (RMCK); several called near on imitation of notes Elk L Jun 18-19 (MRS); one pair definite, probably more Elk L Jul (FS). Traill's Flycatcher: one RB Jun 10 and 18 (JK); one L Clear Jun 19 (HD); one Long L late Jun (RMCK). Least Flycatcher: several to common all areas. Eastern Wood Pewee: reported from all areas, eight different stations Elk L (FS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: reports from all areas except TL, 12 stations Elk L (FS). Tree Swallow: common. Bank Swallow: many all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: four Long L late Jun (RMCK); seen seven times Jun 2 to Jul 1 RB (JK). Barn Swallow: common, one wonderful day of low-flying insects, Jul 17, 100s flew over the grasses in a field behind Trudeau Rd (HD). Cliff Swallow: Long L late Jun (RMCK); one pair nesting Elk L Jul (FS); "On Jul 1 was building nest on top of old nest of Barn Swallow. On Jul 20 most of nest fell away but birds kept repairing it. Never really completed but young reared and left Aug 4" RB (JK); 100 Jul 9 Vermontville (ED); few SL and L Clear until mid-Aug (HD). Purple Martin: one Long L late Jun (RMCK).

Gray Jay: one adult Moose R Plains Jul 22 (RH). Blue Jay: common all areas. Common Crow: all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: common all areas. Boreal Chickadee: one Jun 1 RB (JK); eight nests, one still feeding young Jul 27 Elk L (FS). White-breasted Nuthatch: two or three reported most areas; five pair Elk L

(FS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: common in wooded areas. Brown Creeper: several Elk L mid-Jun thru Jul (MRS, FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); pair RB (JK). House Wren: one Old Forge late Jun (RMcK). (Ed. note: any information on this species in Region 7 would be greatly appreciated.) Winter Wren: common Elk L mid-Jun thru Jul (MRS, FS); heard RB (JK); Long L late Jun (RMcK); SL Jun (HD). MOCKINGBIRD: one Willsboro Jun 27 (GC). Catbird: one to few all areas. Brown Thrasher: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 5 Vermontville (ED); one Jun 10 SL (EA, HD); one Jun 29 and 30 SL (GK). Robin: common to abundant all areas. Wood Thrush: Long L late Jun (RMcK); two pair with young Elk L (FS); four birds in separated areas SL (GK); heard often RB (JK); heard TL (RM). Hermit Thrush: showing a comeback Long L late Jun (RMcK); "14 singing males, two nests, one with three eggs on Jun 28, robbed and deserted on Jul 2. Other nest with four eggs on Jun 26, hatched Jul 5, two young left nest 6:30 am on Jul 16, other two at 8:15 am" (FS); heard a few times RB (JK) and SL (HD); nesting High Falls George Jun 9 (Ruth Cooper fide HD). Swainson's Thrush: the commonest Long L late Jun (RMcK); 18 singing males Elk L (FS); heard Mt Jo Jun 18 (HD). Grey-cheeked Thrush: summit Blue Mt late Jun (RMcK); one near top of Sunrise Mt Elk L (FS). Veery: small numbers all areas. Eastern Bluebird: Jun 9 L Clear, Jun 18 L Placid, Jun 24 SL (HD); Jul 5, nest with five young Bloomingdale (H Hughes); adult with two young Jul 18 near L Clear (HD); two broods first three, then Aug 3 four Vermontville (H Tyler). Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Elk L Jul (FS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: adult male L Eaton campsite late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 5 Santa Clara (RH); two singing males Elk L Jul (FS). Cedar Waxwing: good numbers all areas mid-Jun thru period. Starling: no reporter actually complained of this species for once.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: several, one nest found Elk L (FS); one RB Jun 15 (JK); one ADK Loj Jul 10 (EA); two Long L late Jun (RMcK). Red-eyed Vireo: common all areas.

Warblers: Black-and-white: all areas; eight pairs seen feeding young Elk L (FS); young seen RB (JK). Golden-winged: heard singing by GC several days late Jun, heard by HD and sighted briefly by GC Jun 20 near Lewis. TENNESSEE: pair, "much singing" Cooper Kiln P 3,000' elevation, Wilmington Jun 4 (RH), Jun 10 (RH, DY). Nashville: four singing males Elk L Jul (FS); few RB (JK). Parula: one Park Ave SL Jun 14 (HD); seven Long L late Jun (RMcK); five singing males Jul Elk L (FS). Yellow: Jul 27 TL (RM); one Thendara, one Deerland late Jun (RMcK). Magnolia: Long L late Jun (RMcK); 24 stations Elk L Jul (FS); young seen RB (JK). Black-throated Blue: Long L late Jun (RMcK); L Clear Jun 19 (HD); RB (JK); 18 Elk L Jul (FS). Myrtle: nesting Elk L, RB and SL. Black-throated Green: 11 singing males, young off Jul 18 Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jun 9 thru Aug 15 RB (JK); SL (HD). Blackburnian: 16 stations Elk L Jul (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jun 2-23 RB (JK); Jun 19 L Clear (EA, HD). Chestnut-sided: 10 singing males Elk L Jul (FS); young seen RB (JK); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jul 28 TL (RM); Jun and Jul SL (HD, GK). Blackpoll: Blue and Owl's Head Mts Hamilton Co late Jun (RMcK); 2 pair Jun 4 (RH) and Jun 10 Wilmington (RH, DY); six males and several young Sunrise Mt Trail Elk L (FS). Ovenbird: "a beautiful hidden nest with four young" Elk L mid-Jun (MRS); reported from all other areas. Northern Waterthrush: very few reported; one Elk L Jul (FS); four Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 19 SL (HD). Mourning: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one heard until Jul 12 RB (JK); 17 singing males Elk L Jul (FS). Yellowthroat: vied with Myrtle to be most common in Region. Wilson's: none! Canada: nine males, one pair still feeding young Jul 22 Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); thru period RB (JK). American Redstart: not quite as common as Myrtle and Yellowthroat.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: again common everywhere but RB. Bobolink: nesting in open fields SL and RB. Eastern Meadowlark: same as Bobolink. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: a bird most probably of this species was seen and heard repeatedly singing a typical Western Meadowlark song at Santa Clara on Jun 4 by RH and William Weiss of Kinnelon, N.J.; call notes were not heard. Red-winged Blackbird: all areas. Baltimore Oriole: very few reports, only one female seen Elk L (FS); pair feeding young Jul 24 TL (RM). Rusty Blackbird: 17 Elk L Jul (FS). Common Grackle: all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: a few all areas. Scarlet Tanager: nine stations Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMCK); occasional TL Jul (RM); one Jun 1 and Jul 7 RB (JK); one SL Jun 19 (HD); one Vermontville Jun 28 (ED). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers all areas. Indigo Bunting: one Long L late Jun (RMCK); one male seen sev times Elk L (FS); one Jun 30 SL (EA, HD); one off and on Jul RB (JK). Evening Grosbeak: three Long L late Jun (RMCK); five Jun 1&2, two Jun 10 RB (JK); pair Jun 30, three birds thru period SL (HD, GK); numbers with young after Jul 12, "males seemed to do all the feeding" TL (RM). Purple Finch: few nesting pairs all areas except Elk L where they were common (FS). Pine Siskin: flock of twelve seen daily Jul and early Aug Elk L (FS); two thru period RB (JK). American Goldfinch: few all areas thru period. Red Crossbill: four Aug 5, three Aug 13 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: heard ADK Loj Rd Jun 18 (HD); pair TL Jul 19 (RM).

Sparrows: Savannah: one Long L late Jun (RMCK); a few nesting RB (JK) and SL (HD). Vesper: heard near Lewis Jun 20 (HD). Slate-colored Junco: common Elk L (MRS, FS); small numbers other areas. Chipping: good nesting numbers. Field: singing Lewis and SL on some of the hottest days of late Jun (HD). White-throated: a young neighbor came over to have us identify this bird's song for him. He had walked the length of the Northville-Placid Trail on the week of Jun 13 and was grateful to this small songster for making a rather arduous hike more enjoyable than it might otherwise have been. Lincoln's: one Jun 4 Santa Clara "good song" (RH); one Jun 30 with food RB (JK); four north of Long L and Sabattis Rd late Jun (RMCK) Swamp: four pair Elk L Jul (FS); eight Long L late Jun (RMCK); one Jun 1, 10 and Jul 23 RB (JK). Song: good numbers all areas.

ADDENDUM to May 1966 report: Brown Thrasher: one at Mrs Vivian Dupree's feeder in SL for about three weeks in late Nov and early Dec. The bird was reportedly found dead by Mrs Dupree sometime before Dec 12, on which date she took it to J Keji at RB. He identified the specimen and sent it on to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology because of the lateness of the date for Region 7.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

June and July were surprisingly "normal" this year—a refreshing departure from recent precedent. Temperatures averaged 67.4 degrees in June and 72.2 degrees in July at Albany, very close to the normal, and precipitation totalled 2.95 and 3.88 inches, 0.30 inches below and 0.39 inches above normal, respectively. Early June was quite cool, whereas the latter part of June and the first two weeks of July produced the hottest weather of the summer. Late July and early August were again cool.

The results of eight breeding bird counts conducted in the Region for